

Chen

14 June 1973

STATINTL MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : T/KH Clearances for Civil Agencies

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1. The attached Agriculture request for T-KH billets is still pending. I have been holding action until a few of the pieces could be sorted out and I had a chance to talk to [REDACTED] on the overall problem. Since once again we have the case of a particular request representing merely the camel's nose under our test, I felt we should examine the whole beast before proceeding.

2. Also, once again, the impetus comes from [REDACTED] press on the civil outfits to get cracking on use of satellite materials. Prospects are for considerably more requests of the Agriculture type rolling in shortly. It appears our earlier method of dealing with these (the 100-billet kitty approved by the DCI/attachment A) is already out of date and we need a new formula.

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3. Hopefully, this would be the time to call for a little organized help in this from the civil supplicant apparatus, and particularly from the chief supplicant himself--viz. [REDACTED]. As things stand now, the present short-gun approach will nickel-and-dime us to death and we'll be looking rather foolish trying to front all by ourselves for what is inherently--and understandably--a very confusing situation. I'll try to make my point clearer by meandering through the following background points:

a. Our role is chiefly to judge the valid need for particular individual (or block) clearances requested and more or less insure that principles of need-to-know and materials protection are properly applied and maintained.

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b. The civil agency "world" in which we are playing our role, however, is for the moment at least peopled entirely by "babes-in-the-woods"--compartmented-security-wise, that is. They are being pressured by [REDACTED] to "get into the satellite materials"; not knowing what's in the source, they naturally have little basis for applying any kind of "need-to-know" criteria and we in turn have no way of assessing whether a given number of clearances is justified or hair-brained, inflated, or what. Our standard slogan at the outset for these poor devils is--"submit a billet structure and validate the need-to-know for each of them billets." Since they usually are simply setting up to study the source and develop embryonic plans of how they might use the material, they are in no position to really develop very meaningful "structures"--sort of putting the chart before the course, ya might say!

c. Understandable as all they may be, it still leaves us holding the bag in trying to assess who really needs what and in sponsoring recommendations to the DCI. Further, we will be hit piecemeal by each of the civil community elements separately--today it's Agriculture, tomorrow the Tennessee Valley Authority, next week the Census Bureau, etc.

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4. I believe we should consider tasking the civil community (nee [REDACTED]) to set up single central point on their side to screen, organize, and validate these requests, etc. Then we will be dealing with one gang, one time. Now we have to go through the whole kindergarten routine over and over again every time with every separate element. It's going to come to this eventually when the civil community is reorganized and centralized (a la [REDACTED]). Let's start right off by putting a small simian creature on their collective backs like now!

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